



PRIORITY SETTING THE VIEWPOINT OF MSF

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INTRODUCTION

- Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is an international humanitarian aid organization that delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, health care exclusion and natural or man-made disasters
- Like many other organizations MSF is confronted with situations for which proven, effective interventions are often lacking and /or where there is need for strong advocacy for improving medical care.



MSF Top Priorities in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (1)

- Rapid Assessment
- Measles mass immunisation
- Water supply and sanitation
- Food supply and specialized nutritional rehabilitation programs
- Shelter, site planning and non-food items



MSF Top Priorities in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (2)

- Curative care
- Prevention of communicable diseases
- Surveillance and alert system
- Involving the community



Initial Assessment

- New methods to estimate the size of a population (the denominator)
- The use of satellite imagery in the early phase of an emergency
- Methods to measure real time mortality
- e-mobile technology



Curative care

- The evaluation of anti-infective treatment algorithms in areas with limited information on antibiotic resistance
- Place of molecular diagnostic methods
- Standardized protocols
- Management of chronic diseases
- Evaluation of mental health activities
- Mobile clinics



Mass vaccination

- Measles only ?
- Should new vaccines be introduced in the response to the acute phase of a crisis?(PVC, cholera ?)
- Target population
- Vaccination scheme
- Cold chain standards in hot climate
- New mode of vaccines deliveries



Water supply and implementation of sanitation measures

- Survival of pathogens in waste water after mass chlorination (vibrio cholera, hepatitis E ..)
- Water and sanitation standards in refugee camps



NUTRITION

- Effectiveness of specific food supplementation on mortality , morbidity and incidence of malnutrition
- Delivery strategy
- Cost effectiveness



Involving the community

- Community health workers involvement in emergencies and impact on operation
- Task shifting models
- The impact of health promotion activities



Operational research in MSF

- Search for knowledge on interventions, strategies or tools that can enhance the performance of the program in which the research is being conducted

- (Zachariah.R et al. Lancet ID 2009, 9:711-717)



Three broad reasons:

- Improve programme outcomes in relation to medical care or prevention (the quality of assistance)
- Assess feasibility of new strategies or interventions in specific settings or populations
- To gather evidence to advocate for policy change



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Welcome

Many people know about MSF's work in humanitarian relief but few are aware of its research, carried out in many different countries. Its studies have been published in more than 80 peer-reviewed journals and have often changed clinical practice. This website archives the research and scientific articles published by MSF to make them available free, with full text, in an easily searchable format. Check Published Research and Commentary for PubMed listed articles.

Contents

- We have included Conference Abstracts,
- a description of MSF's Ethics Board,
- Programme Descriptions give details from the field and lessons learnt
- MSF's Operational Guidelines,

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